CARBONDALE'S THREE CITY HALLS

The charter of the city of Carbondale, which was drawn up by the Honorable Lewis Jones, was approved by an act of the Assembly on March 15, 1851, and Carbondale became an incorporated city with four wards. For the first year of its existence, the city government was provisionally housed in the Methodist Church and in the Carbondale House. It was in that church, in fact, that the Honorable William Jessup, president judge of the judicial district, administered, on March 26, 1851, the oath of office to Carbondale's first Mayor, James A. Archbald, to the first Clerk of the Mayor's Court, William Brennan, and to the first Prosecuting Attorney of the city of Carbondale, George W. Perkins.

In 1852, Carbondale's first city hall, City Hall I, was erected, at a cost of $3,000, on the site now occupied by the two-story wing of present-day City Hall. Built of wood in the Greek Revival style, City Hall I burned to the ground on February 14, 1859, just seven years after it was erected. Four months later, in June 1859, the Select and Common Councils of Carbondale voted to provide for and erect a new city hall on the site of City Hall I. Carbondale's second city hall, City Hall II, erected in 1859 during the administration of Carbondale's fourth mayor, John M. Poore, was built of brick, and still stands in Carbondale--it is the two-story wing of present-day Carbondale City Hall. Like its predecessor, City Hall II was a rectangular building in the Greek Revival style: five slender vertical rectangular windows in each story on the northern and southern sides of the building; three vertical rectangular windows in the second story on the eastern side, and two vertical